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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5641  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 1154  
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU PRIORITY  
RUEUITH/TLO ANKARA TU PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/39ABG CP INCIRLIK AB TU PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/425ABG IZMIR TU//CC// PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000536

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/18/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKEY: RULING AKP TO TRY TO OVERCOME CLOSURE CASE  
BY AMENDING CONSTITUTION

REF: ANKARA 526 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: PolCouns Janice G Weiner, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) is drafting a mini-constitutional amendment package to attempt to overcome  
[1](#)2. (C) xxxxx told us March 19 the party is hard at work on a mini-constitutional amendment package. The party sees the closure case as politic  
[1](#)3. (C) With respect to the concern voiced by many that the current case is "untouchable" because Article 138 of the Constitution prohibits leg  
[1](#)4. (C) xxxxx AKP will work at a compromise with MHP; if that is not possible, AKP will push the package through parliament. AKP on its own (li  
[1](#)5. (C) Asked whether AKP, in pushing such a package, was not playing with fire, xxxxx responded the party had concluded it would be more dange  
[1](#)6. (C) Comment: The AKP appears determined to fight this head on. This is well-aligned with PM Erdogan's street-fighter instincts, and with th  
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Ankara 00000536 002 of 002

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